CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A software version control method comprising:

assigning data files to groups;

processing each group to form corresponding processed images;

associating each processed image with a unique identifier;

generating a listing of unique identifiers;

storing the processed images and the listing of unique identifiers within a client device;

during an upgrade process, comparing the listing of unique identifiers with a downloaded latest listing of unique identifiers from a source device; and

selectively downloading processed images whose unique identifiers appears in the latest listing of unique identifiers from the source device but not in the listing of unique identifiers in client device.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the source device includes a server device.

3. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein each unique identifier is derived from its corresponding processed image.

4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein assigning data files to groups further includes assigning related function data files to groups.

5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein storing the processed images and the listing of unique identifiers within the client device further includes storing the processed images and the listing of unique identifiers in a persistent memory.

6. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

generating a new listing of unique identifiers after selectively downloading processed images whose unique identifiers appears in the latest listing of unique identifiers but not in the listing of unique identifiers in client device.

7. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein processing each group to form corresponding processed images further includes compressing each group to form corresponding compressed images.

8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

assigning data files to groups;

processing each group to form corresponding processed images;

associating each processed image with a unique identifier;

generating a listing of unique identifiers;

storing the processed images and the listing of unique identifiers within a client device;

during an upgrade process, comparing the listing of unique identifiers with a downloaded latest listing of unique identifiers from a source device; and

selectively downloading processed images whose unique identifiers appears in the latest listing of unique identifiers from the source device but not in the listing of unique identifiers in client device.

9. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein the source device includes a server device.

10. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein each unique identifier is derived from its corresponding processed image.

11. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein assigning data files to groups further includes assigning related function data files to groups.

12. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein storing the processed images and the listing of unique identifiers within the client device further includes storing the processed images and the listing of unique identifiers in a persistent memory.

13. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, further comprising:

generating a new listing of unique identifiers after selectively downloading processed images whose unique identifiers appears in the latest listing of unique identifiers but not in the listing of unique identifiers in client device.

14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, wherein processing each group to form corresponding processed images further includes compressing each group to form corresponding compressed images.

15. An apparatus comprising:

memory; and

logic coupled to the memory and operatively configured to store processed images of files and a listing of unique identifiers associated with each of the processed images to the memory, and during an upgrade process compare the listing of unique identifiers with a downloaded latest listing of unique identifiers from a source device to identify processed images that need to be downloaded.

16. The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein each unique identifier is derived from its corresponding processed image.

17. The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein, following the upgrade process, the logic is further configured to generate a new

listing of unique identifiers and store the new listing of unique identifiers to the memory.

18. The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the memory includes persistent memory.

19. The apparatus as recited in Claims 15, wherein the memory and logic are part of a client device.

20. The apparatus as recited in Claims 15, wherein the processed image includes compressed data.

21. A system comprising:

a network;

a server device operatively coupled to the network and configured to selectively assign data files to groups, process each group to form corresponding processed images, associate each processed image with a unique identifier, and selectively output the processed images and a latest listing of unique identifiers over the network; and

a client device operatively coupled to the network and configured to communicate with the server device through the network, wherein the client device is further configured to maintain a listing of unique identifiers associated with processed images stored locally within the client device, during an upgrade process, compare the listing of unique identifiers with a downloaded latest listing of unique identifiers from a source device, and

selectively download processed images whose unique identifiers appears in the latest listing of unique identifiers from the source device but not in the listing of unique identifiers in client device.

22. The system as recited in Claim 21, wherein each unique identifier is derived from its corresponding processed image.

23. The system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the server device is further configured to selectively assign related function data files to the same group.

24. The system as recited in Claim 21, wherein processed image includes compressed data.